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President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

In advance of your Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Budget, I write in strong support of funding for the United States International Boundary and Water Commission's (USIBWC) construction account with the Department of State Budget, so that they may address vital infrastructure projects, including those that are in dire straits in my home state of Arizona.

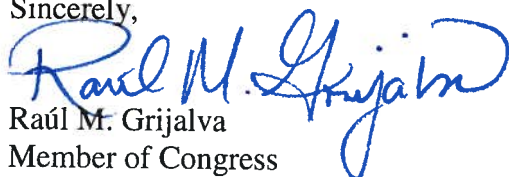
As you may know, the IBWC works to deploy sound science-based engineering solutions to resolve highly sensitive binational boundary and water issues and to develop, construct and operate joint projects on the U.S. – Mexico border. According to IBWC, their most notable accomplishments are the construction and operation of three international wastewater treatment plants and related infrastructure on the border region.

The IBWC built the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant (NIWTP) at Nogales, Arizona in 1951. The IBWC later relocated the NIWTP to Rio Rico, Arizona and in their most recent strategic plan the agency stated their intention to work with the City of Nogales to replace and/or relocate the deteriorated International Outfall Interceptor, which is the pipeline that conveys the wastewater to the NIWTP.

Unfortunately, needed repairs have not been made over the years and the city of Nogales, Arizona has been subjected to numerous occasions of raw sewage spilling into waterways, with the latest occurrence happening in July 2017, after which Arizona Governor Ducey declared a State of Emergency.

I am sure you will agree – it's absurd to leave a city in the United States susceptible to the risk of raw sewage spills, especially when preventative rehabilitation improvements have already been studied and designed. I ask for an increase in the construction budget for USIBWC so that they may move forward with desperately needed repairs to the International Outfall Interceptor and other important projects within their jurisdiction. As a matter of fiscal responsibility, addressing these issues after they become a public health crisis is irresponsible and much more expensive, I therefore urge a substantial increase in your FY 2019 Budget.

Sincerely,

  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress